

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Eighth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Eighth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.2% (269) reside in the Eighth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (51) of Eighth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 66.1% of admissions from the Eighth Middlesex Representative District were male and 33.8% were female.
- Over 55.3% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 88.8% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.7% were black non-Latino, 3.7% were Latino, 0.37% were Asians, and 3.3% were other racial categories.
- 59.8% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 16.3% were married, and 14.5% reported not to be married now.
- 22.3% of admissions had less than high school education, 43.5% completed high school, and 34.2% had more than high school education.
- 53.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 7.0% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.8% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Eighth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Eighth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	208	186	60	55	28	37	24
FY '96	207	179	79	59	26	43	31
FY '97	232	204	69	47	26	41	29
FY '98	282	224	80	70	26	67	49
FY '99	289	255	115	57	31	50	45
FY '00	274	222	90	57	23	56	45
FY '01	269	226	85	45	17	51	29

- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 22%, marijuana by 42%, and heroin use by 38%. During the same period reports of cocaine and crack use decreased.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Eighth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	53.4 %	30.1%	5.6%	4.5%	2.9%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, marijuana and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and cocaine was higher within your District.